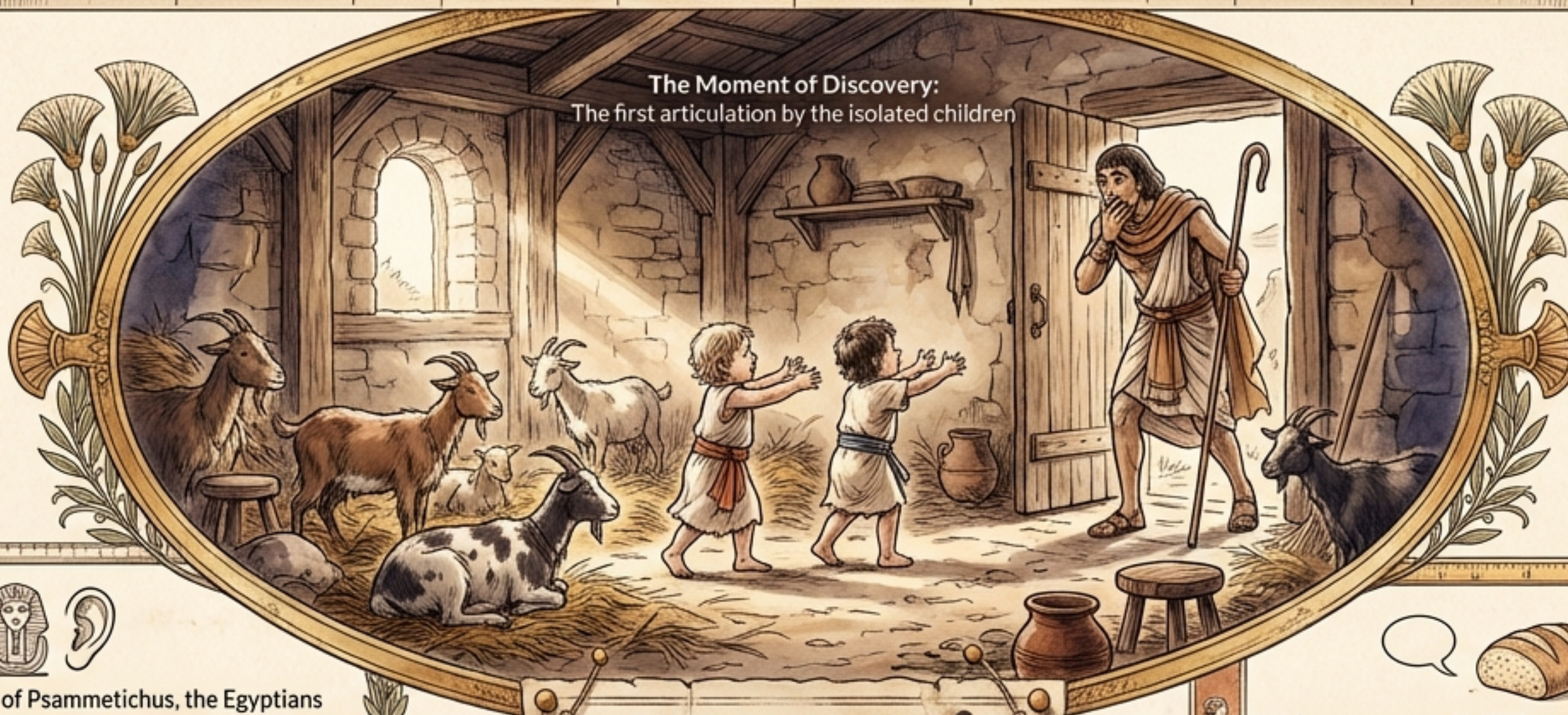


Euterpe: An Inquiry into the Antiquity of Egypt

The Experiment of Psammetichus and the Search for the First Race

The Moment of Discovery:
The first articulation by the isolated children



Before the reign of Psammetichus, the Egyptians believed themselves the most ancient of mankind.

To test this, the King isolated two common-born children, commanding a herdsman to let them hear no human voice, only the bleating of goats, to see what word they would first articulate.

The Verdict:

The Egyptians yielded their claim, admitting the Phrygians to be the older race.

After two years of isolation, the children ran to the herdsman with outstretched arms crying "Becos."

Psammetichus inquired and learned that "Becos" was the Phrygian word for bread.

The Gift of the River: A Land Won from the Sea



Herodotus's Geological Theory:



1. The Sounding Lead:
Mud is brought up from the sea floor far from the coast, proving the river's extended reach.



2. The Measurement:
Vast territories are measured by schoenes, ample ones by parasangs, and scanty ones by fathoms.



3. The Conclusion:
The Delta was once a gulf of the sea, filled by alluvial deposits over ages.

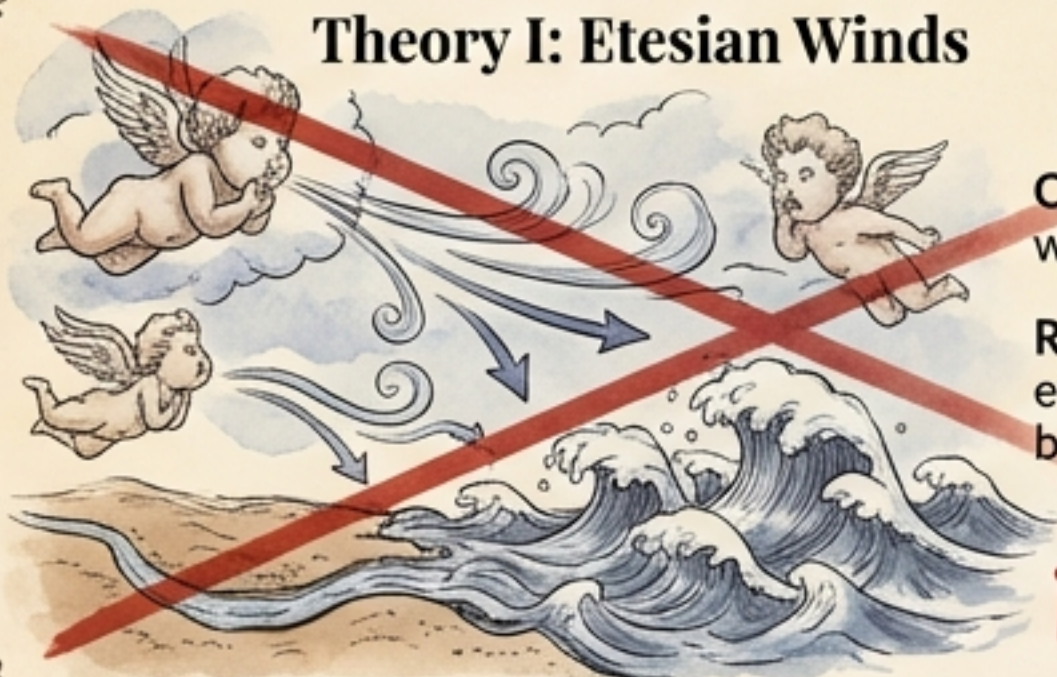
"The Egypt to which the Greeks go in their ships is an acquired country, the gift of the river."

The Mystery of the Inundation

Why does the Nile rise for a hundred days starting at the summer solstice?

The Greek Theories

Theory I: Etesian Winds



Claim: Winds prevent water from flowing to sea.

Refutation: The river rises even when winds do not blow.

REFUTED

Theory II: The Ocean Stream



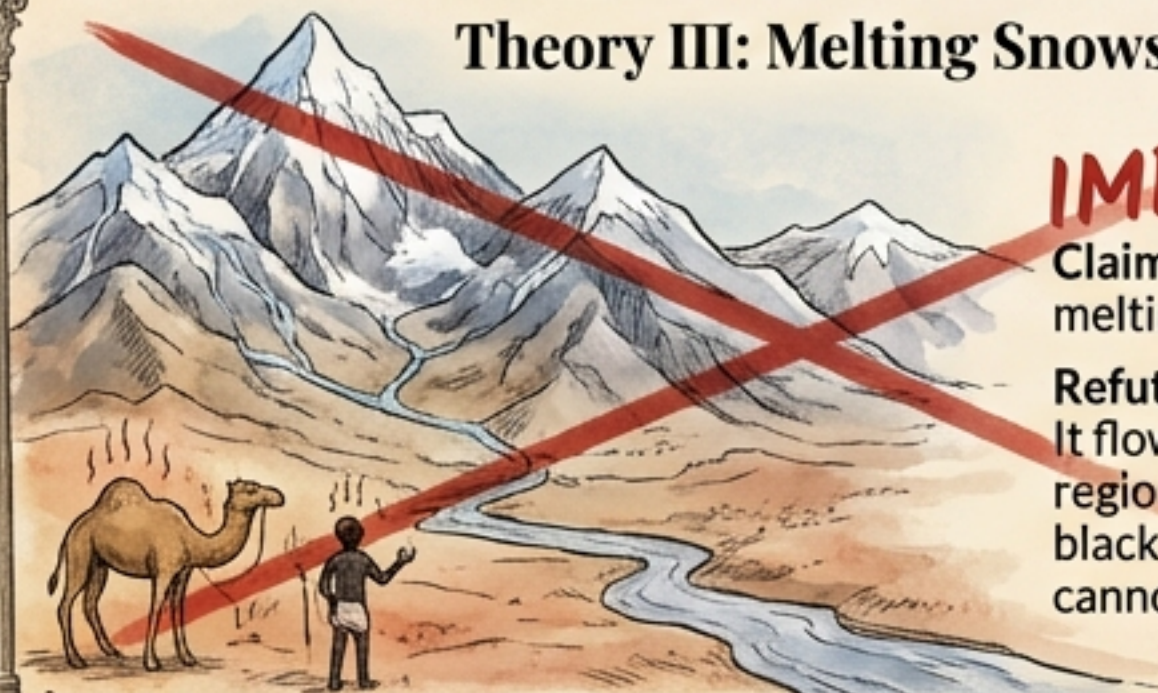
Κυκλὸν Γαλὸν τὰν
αἰκαίσιν ἄσκη
νέας ἐνὸκ.

Claim: Flows from a river called Ocean encircling earth.

Refutation: "The Ocean" is a poetic invention of Homer; no such river exists.

POETIC FICTION

Theory III: Melting Snows



IMPOSSIBLE

Claim: Flows from melting snow.

Refutation: Impossible. It flows from the hottest regions where men are black with heat. Snow cannot exist there.

Herodotus's Theory



Herodotus's Theory: The Solar Path

During winter storms, the Sun is driven from his course to upper Libya, drying the streams. In summer, the Sun returns to the middle heaven, drawing water equally, allowing the Nile to swell.

The Inverted World

Customs that Reverse the Common Practice of Mankind

THE INVERTED WORLD

The Rest of Mankind

The Egyptians



• **Commerce:** Women trade; men weave.



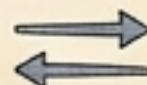
• **Burdens:** Men carry loads on heads; women on shoulders.



• **Diet:** Wheat is a disgrace; they eat spelt (zea) and knead dough with their feet.



• **Writing:** Greeks write left-to-right; Egyptians write right-to-left.



"Not only is the climate different... but the people also, in most of their manners and customs, exactly reverse the common practice of mankind."



Health, Hygiene, and the Priesthood

Ancient Egyptian Ritual Purity and Daily Practices

Shaved every →
other day. No lice
or impurity
permitted.

↗
Freshly washed
Linen only.
Wool is forbidden
in temples.

↘
Shoes of Papyrus.



Monthly Purgation.
Three days of
emetics and clysters.
Belief that all disease
comes from food.

Dietary Taboos

- **Fish is forbidden.**
- **Beans are**
unclean—priests
will not even look
at them.
- **Bathing:** Cold
water twice by
day and twice by
night.



The Art of the Embalmers

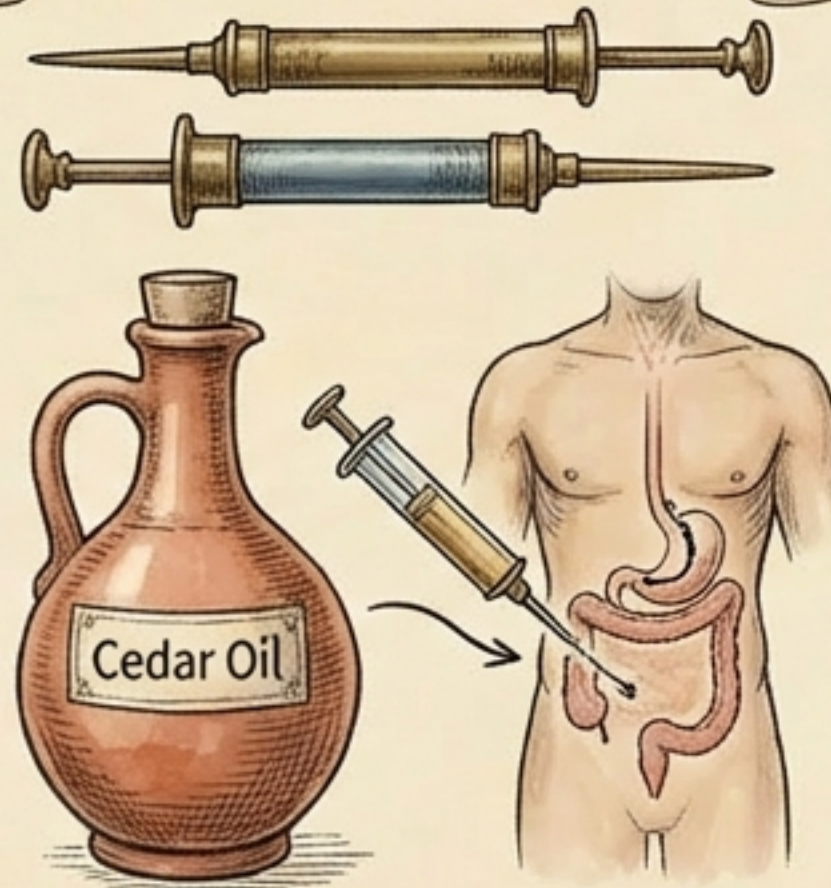
The Three Methods of Preservation

The Perfect Process (Costly)



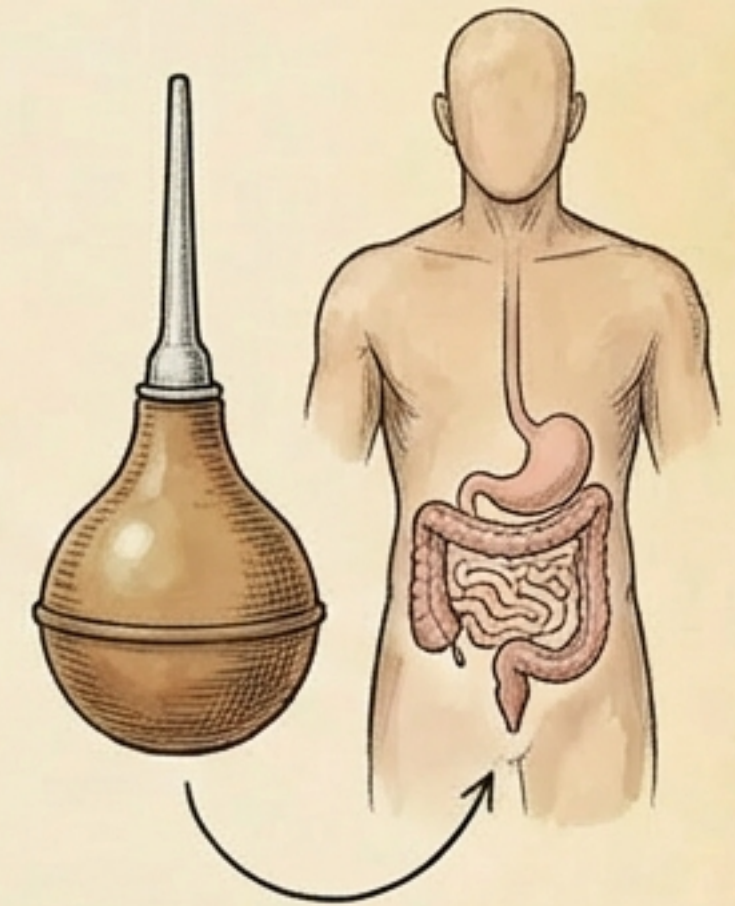
Brain extraction via nostrils. Evisceration with Ethiopian stone. Cavity filled with aromatics. Steeped in natrum for 70 days. Fine linen wrapping.

The Intermediate Process (Moderate)



Injection of cedar oil (no incision). Oil liquefies vitals. Flesh dissolved by natrum. Only skin and bones remain.

The Poorest Process



Clearing intestines with a clyster. Steeping in natrum for 70 days.

Fauna of the Nile: Sacred and Singular

Naturalist field sketches



The Crocodile.
Blind in water, keen
on land. No tongue.
Movable upper jaw.
Friend to the
Trochilus bird.

The Hippopotamus.
"Horse of the River."
Sacred in Papremis.
Hoofs of an ox,
mane of a horse.



Winged Serpents.
Fly from Arabia.
Intercepted in
mountain gorges
by the Ibis.



The Phoenix.
Appears every 500 years.
Carries its parent in a ball
of myrrh to the
Temple of the Sun.
(Herodotus: "I have not
seen it... not credible.")



The Cult of the Cat



The Prodigy of the Fire: On every occasion of a fire, the cats rush headlong into the flames while the Egyptians stand guard to save them. The people are plunged into deep affliction when the cats perish.

Mourning & Burial

- **Natural death of a cat:** Inmates shave their eyebrows.



- **Natural death of a dog:** Inmates shave the whole body and head.



- **Burial:** Cats are embalmed and buried in sacred repositories at Bubastis.



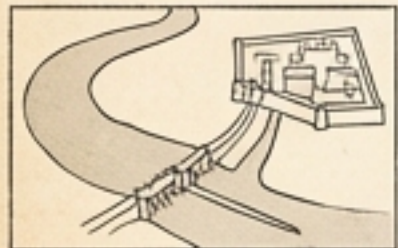
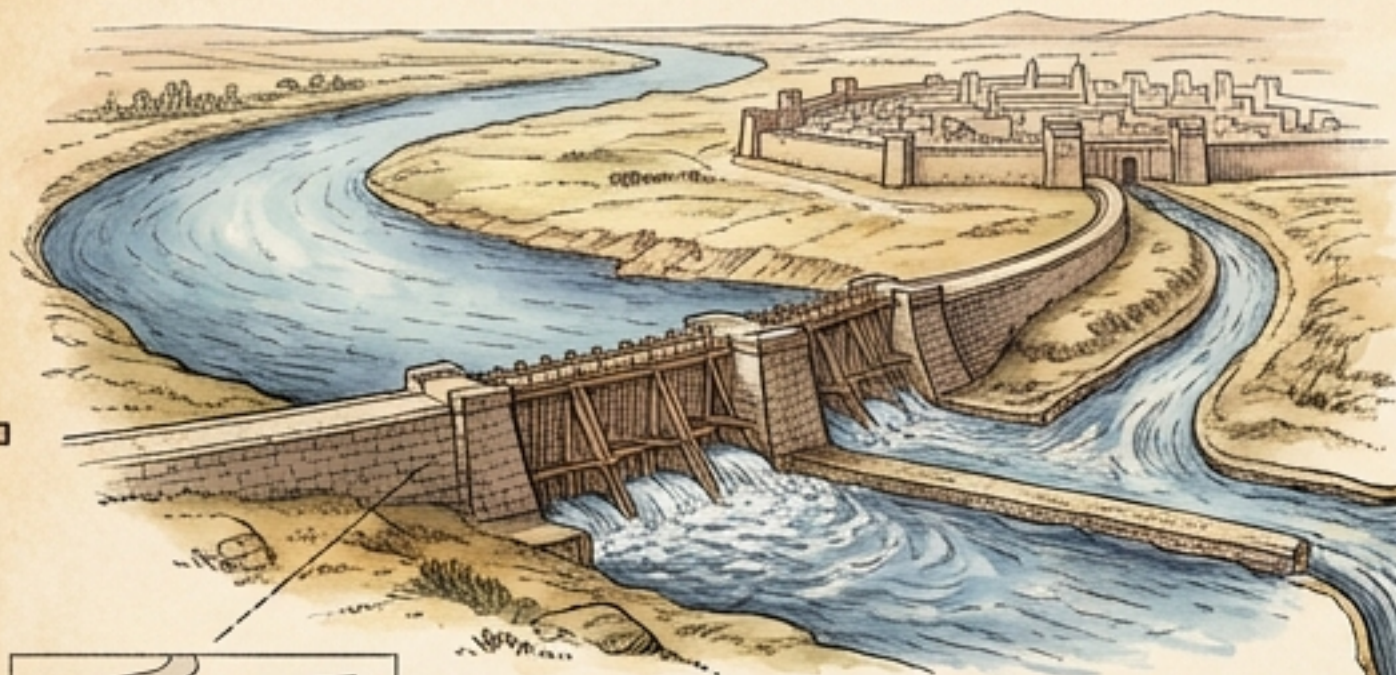
The First Kings and the Turning of the River

Chronicles from the Book of Histories

King Men (Menes)

The First King

Dammed the Nile south of Memphis to dry the old channel and protect the city.
Built the Temple of Vulcan.



Dammed the Nile south of Memphis to dry the old channel and protect the city.
and Built the Temple of Vulcan.



Nitocris (The Avenger)

The Native Queen

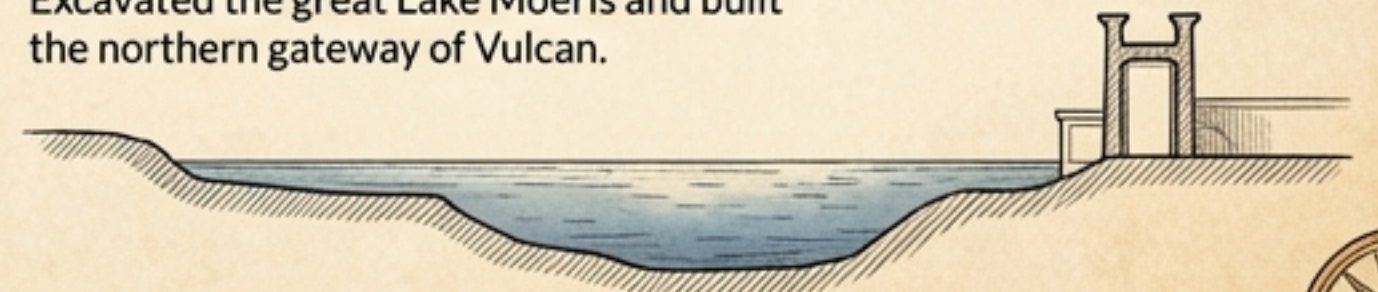
Built a subterranean banquet hall, invited her brother's murderers, and flooded it with river water.

Committed suicide in a room of ashes.



Moeris

Excavated the great Lake Moeris and built the northern gateway of Vulcan.



Sesostris: The Great Conqueror



The Pillars of Judgment



For Valiant
Enemies.



For those who
surrendered
without a fight
(marking effeminacy).

Legacy: Used captives to drag huge stones and dig canals, rendering Egypt unfit for horses and carts.

The Case of Helen: An Egyptian Inquiry

Was Helen ever in Troy?

Sparta



Alexander & Helen flee

The Storm



driven to Egypt

Egypt



King Proteus

Herodotus's Verdict:

"The story is true. Had Helen been in Troy, Priam would have surrendered her to save his city."

Troy

The Siege



Greeks attacking empty walls.
Trojans swearing truth.

Memphis

The Reunion



Menelaus recovers Helen from Proteus after the war.

The Thief and the Treasury of Rhampsinitus

'The Loose Block'



'The Trap'



'Cut off my head so we are not identified.'

'The Guards' Folly'



'The Shaved Beards'

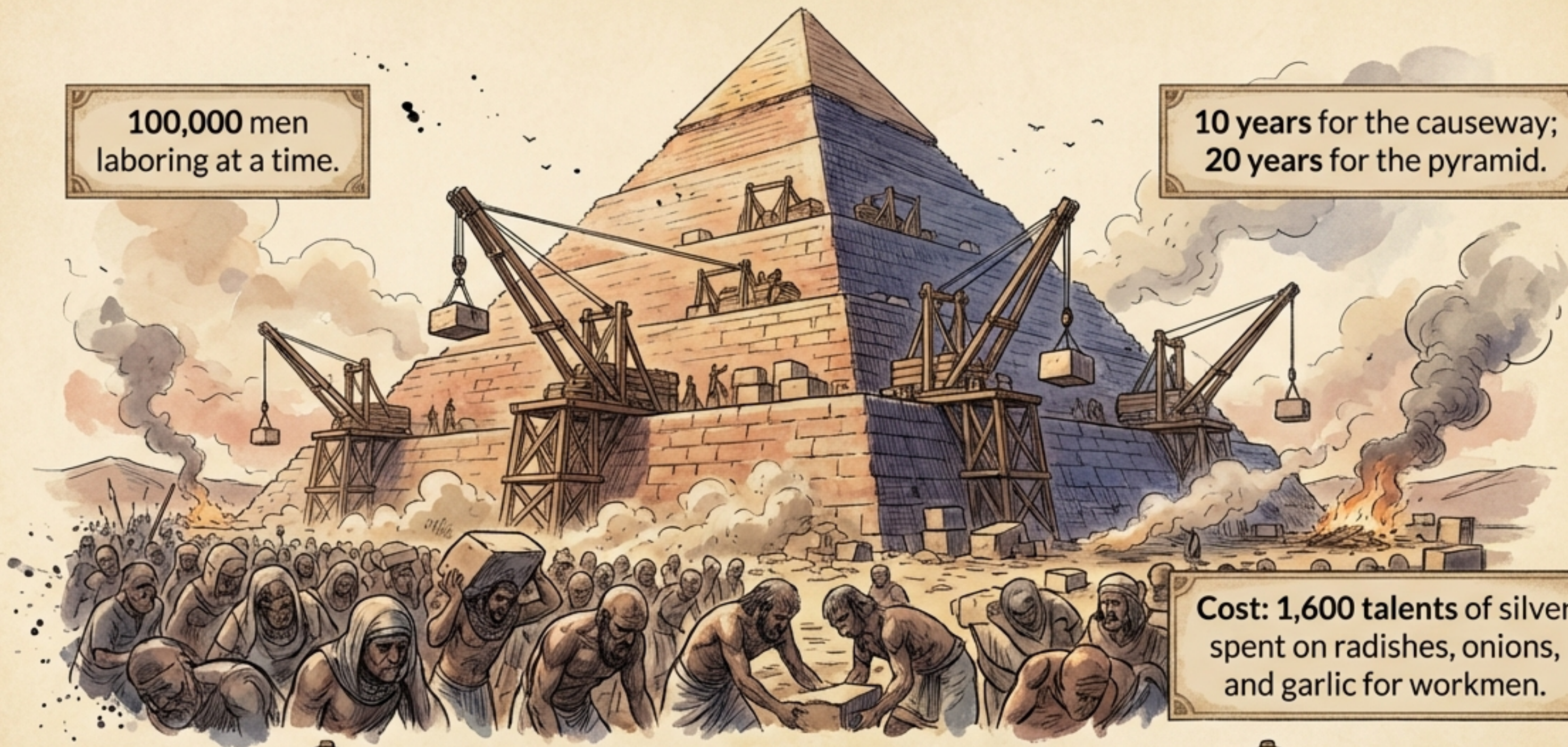


The King, amazed by the audacity, offered his daughter's hand.
'The Egyptians excel all others in wisdom, but this man excels the Egyptians.'

The Builders of Hubris: Cheops and Chephren

100,000 men
laboring at a time.

10 years for the causeway;
20 years for the pyramid.

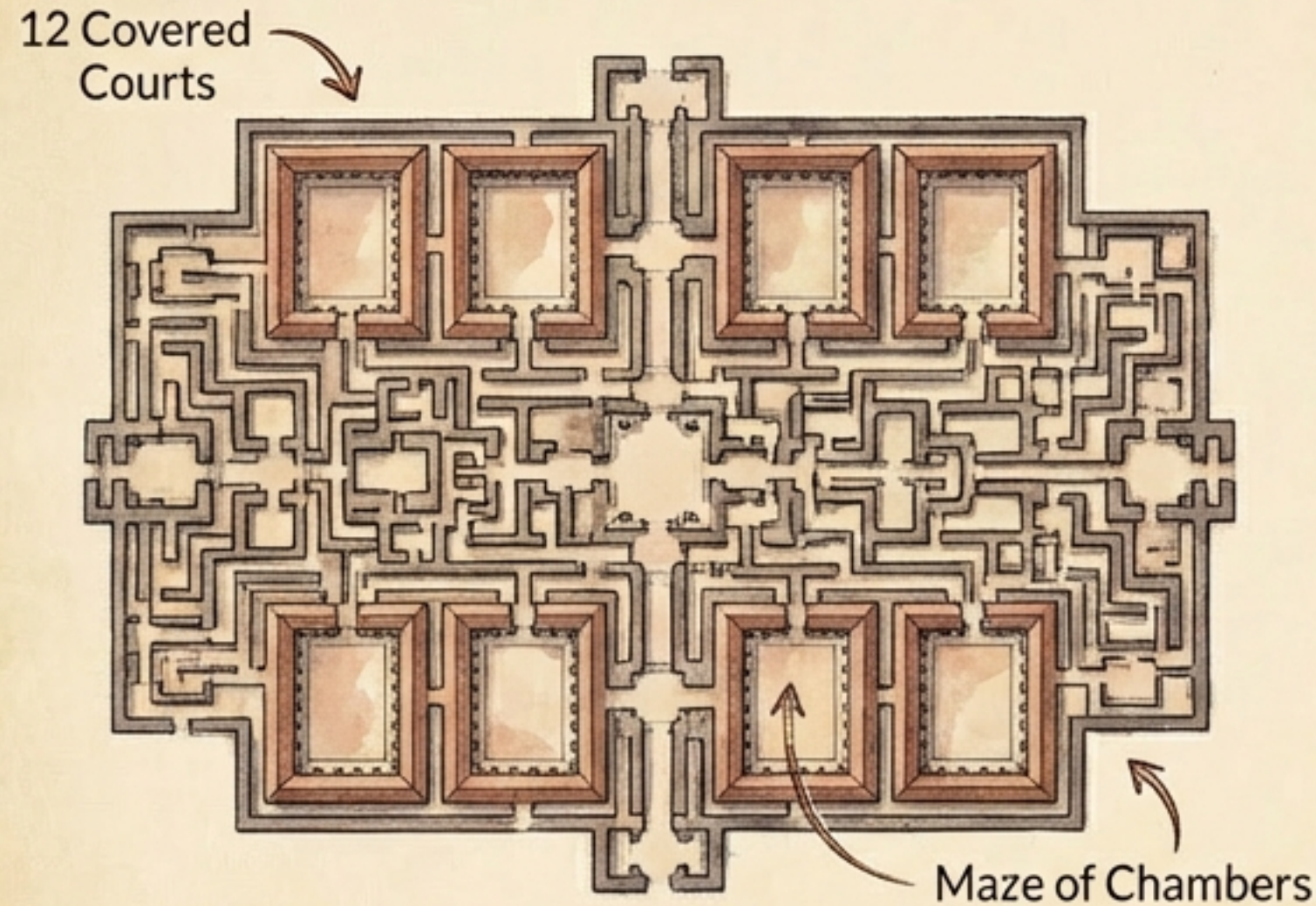


Cost: 1,600 talents of silver
spent on radishes, onions,
and garlic for workmen.

The Egyptians so detest these kings that they refuse to
name them, calling the pyramids after Philiton, a shepherd.

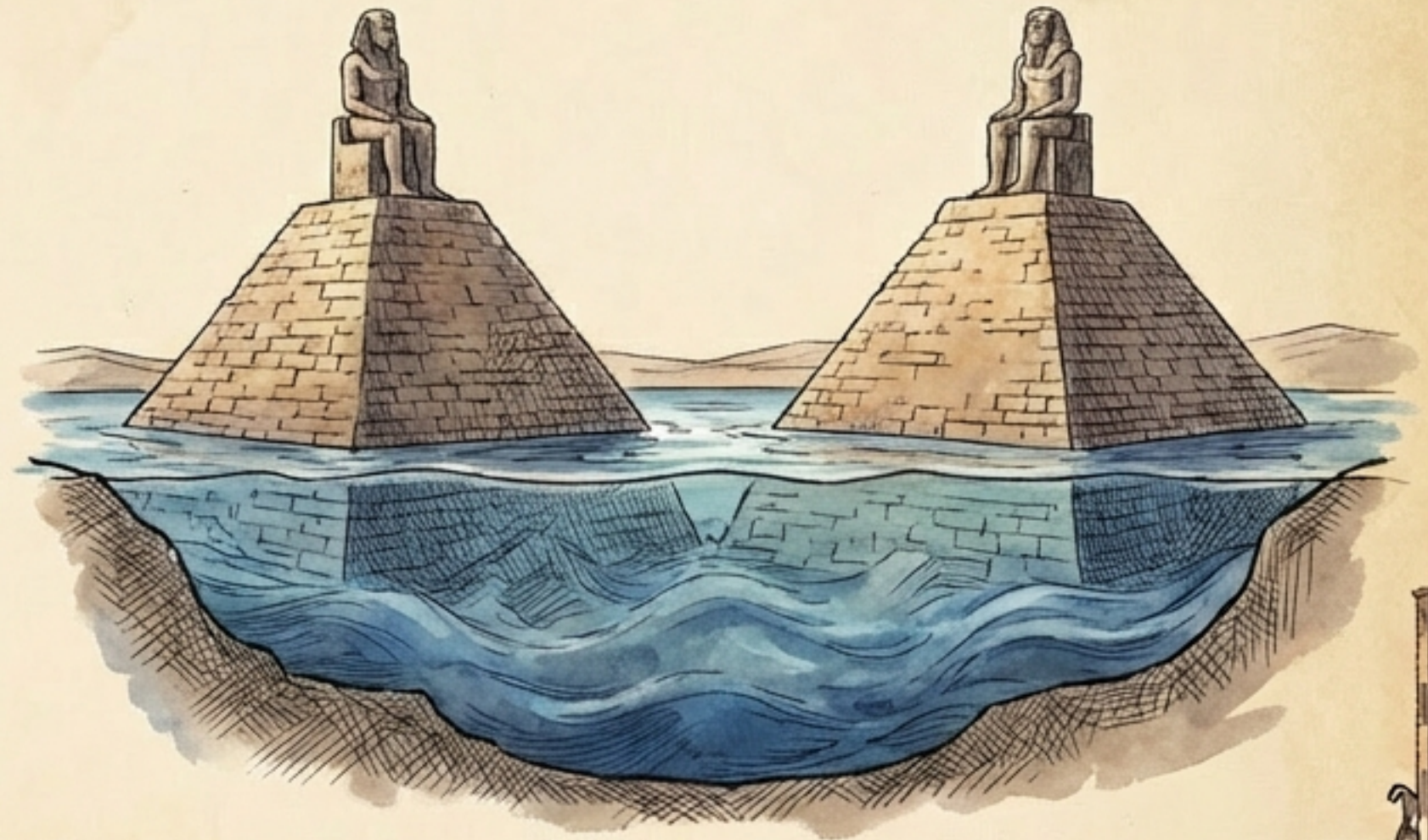
Marvels Beyond the Pyramids in Playfair Display

The Labyrinth



Surpassing the Pyramids. 3,000 chambers (1,500 above ground, 1,500 below). Lower rooms contain tombs of kings and sacred crocodiles.

Lake Moeris



Artificial reservoir, 3,600 furlongs circumference. Water flows in from the Nile for 6 months, and back into the river for 6 months.

The Saite Renaissance and the Greek Connection

The Prophecy

King Psammetichus



The Brazen Men: Ionian and Carian mercenaries who restored the King.

The Golden Age



King Golden-foot, strat melted a deity.

Melted golden foot-pan forms into a deity



Naucratis

The Hellenium



Amasis the Philhellene: Granted Naucratis to the Greeks. Egypt reaches peak prosperity with 20,000 inhabited cities.

End of Book II: Euterpe